





MEMOS. FOR TO-MORROW.

Daylight.—*Haitan* leaves for Coast Ports.  
Noon.—*Halloony* leaves for Arny, &c.  
Noon.—English Mail leaves for Ports of  
Call and Europe.

**Amusements.**

General Memoranda.  
FRIDAY, October 31:—

8.30 p.m.—Meeting of British Mercantile  
Marine Officers' Association at the  
Marine Hotel, Praya West.  
**SATURDAY, November 1 :—**  
3.15 p.m.—Competition of the Hongkong  
Rifle Association.  
Transfer Books of A. S. Watson & Co.,  
Ltd., closed from this date to the 8th  
Instant, inclusive.  
Transfer Books of The China-Borneo  
Co., Ltd., closed from this date to the  
8th Instant inclusive.

9 p.m.—Meeting of Zetland Lodge.  
**SUNDAY, November 2:—**  
 Goods per *Mogul* undelivered after this date subject to rent.  
**TUESDAY, November 4:—**  
 11 a.m.—Sessions of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in Justices' Room.  
**WEDNESDAY, November 5:—**  
 11 a.m.—Sessions of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in Justices' Room.  
**THURSDAY, November 6:—**  
 11 a.m.—Sessions of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in Justices' Room.  
**FRIDAY, November 7:—**  
 11 a.m.—Sessions of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in Justices' Room.  
**SATURDAY, November 8:—**  
 Noon.—Meeting of Shareholders of The China-Burma Corpn. Ltd. at the F. K.

Hotel.

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**WINES AND SPIRITS.**



BY APPOINTMENT.

**A. S. WATSON & Co.,**  
**LIMITED.**  
(ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.)  
**HONGKONG.**

**WE** invite attention to the following old  
landed Brands, all of which are ex-  
cellent quality and good value for the money.  
The same being specially selected by our  
London House, and brought direct from the

most noted Shippers, are imported in wooden  
and bottled by ourselves, thus enabling us  
to supply the best growth at moderate  
prices.

**22** In ordering it is only necessary to  
state the name and quantity of Wine or  
Spirit wanted, and initial letter for quality  
desired.

Orders through Local Post or by Tele-

POETS. (For Invalids and general use.)		Per doz.	Case. Per Bot.
A	Alto Douro, good quality, Green Capsule . . .	\$10	\$1.00
B	Vintage, superior quality, Red Capsule . . .	12	1.10
C	Fine Old Vintage, superior quality. Black Seal Can.		

D Very Fine Old Vintage, extra superior, Violet Cap- sule (Old Bottled) . . .	18	1.50
<b>SHERRIES.</b>		
A Delicate Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Capsule . . .	6	0.60

B Superior Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Seal Capsule	7.50	0.75
C Manzanilla, Pale Natural Sherry, White Capsule	10	1.00
CC Superior Old Dry, Pale Natural Sherry, Red Seal Capsule	10	1.00

**E Extra Superior Old Pale**  
Dry, very finest quality,  
Black Seal Capsule (Old  
Bottled) . . . . . 14 1.25

	1 doz.	2 doz.
	Quarts.	Pints.
<b>CLARETS.</b>		
A Superior Breakfast Claret, Red Capsule	\$4	\$4.50
B St. Estephe, Red Capsule	4.50	5.00
C St. Julien	7	7.50

D La Rose . . . . .	11	12.00
	Per doz.	
	Case. Per Bot.	
<b>BRANDY.</b>		
A Hennessy's Old Pale, Red Capsule . . . . .	\$12	\$1.10
B Superior Very Old Cognac.		

Red Capsule	14	1.25
C Very Old Liqueur Cognac, Red Capsule	18	1.50
D Hennessy's Finest Very Old Liqueur Cognac, 1872 Vintage, Red Capsule	24	2.00

**SCOTCH WHISKY.**

A	Knobs Blend, white Capsule	8	0.75
B	Watson's Glenorchy Mel- low Blend, Blue Capsule, with Name and Trade Mark,	8	0.75
C	Watson's A-belour-Glenlivet, No. 1, Cognac		

D Watson's H K D Blend of the Finest Scotch Malt Whiskies, Violet Capsule	8	0.75
E Watson's Very Old Liqueur Scotch Whisky Gold Capsule	10	1.00

sale	12	1.10
<b>IRISH WHISKY.</b>		
A John Jameson's Old, Green Capsule	8	0.75
B John Jameson's Fine, Old, Green Capsule	10	1.00
C John Jameson's Very Fine		

Old, Green Capsule . . .	12	1.10
GENUINE BOURBON WHISKY, fine old, Red Capsule, with Name . . . . .	10	1.00
<b>GIN.</b>		
A Fine Old Tom, White Cap- sule . . . . .	4.50	0.40

B Fine Unweathered, White		
Capsule . . . . .	4.50	0.40
C Fine A. V. H. Geneva . .	5.25	0.50
<b>RUM.</b>		
Finest Old Jamaica, Violet		
Capsule . . . . .	12	1.00
Good Leeward Island	\$1.50	per Gallon.

2286 Benedictine Maraschino  
Curacao Heering's Cherry Cordial  
Chartreuse Dr. Siegert's Angostura  
Bitters, &c.

at 7.20 p.m.

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**The China Mail.**

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It is well that the rash attempt made by the Acting Colonial Secretary to rush the Appropriation Bill for 1891 through the Finance Committee was speedily checked.

that has been the practice, at any rate since the Committee meetings have been open to the public, to devote at least two sittings to the consideration of the Estimates. And that is really little enough time to spend on

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consideration of the Appropriation Bill in Committee is almost the only opportunity, except a member makes a special motion, the unofficial members have of commenting on the work of the various departments. The discussions that took place last year and the year before were very interesting, and might have been made still more interesting and useful had unofficial members taken more pains to enquire into the separate items. To attempt to rush through with this work in the middle of a Council meeting was little short of an insult to the unofficial members. If the Government has been dilatory in bringing forward the estimates, that is no reason why the work of examining them should be scamped; neither is the desirability of getting on with other work any valid reason for haste. There is nothing before the Council, or that is likely to come before the Council in the next few months, that cannot wait. We have waited long for a Bankruptcy Bill; we can wait a little longer. "If it is ready, let it be published. It is well that such a Bill should be before the public for some time. A rather drastic Bankruptcy Ordinance was passed somewhat hastily by the Singapore Legislative Council two or three years ago, and it has since been discovered that several of its provisions have entailed hardships which detract in a great measure from the utility of the measure. To make a farce of passing the estimates to advance a new Bankruptcy Bill a few weeks would be a great mistake. If we remember rightly the Estimates were fully a month later last year, and no outcry was made about haste. Moreover, the great changes that have been made in the salaries of officials, and the grievances caused thereby, render it more than ever necessary for the Council to study the details of the Estimates. It seems to be the opinion of the Government here that the Secretary of State's despatch settles everything, but that document, except in special cases, only lays down general rules. Lord Knutsford says:—"I am willing that the salaries of those offices which are usually filled by candidates from England should, with certain exceptions, (chiefly in professional appointments) and on certain conditions, as specified later in this Despatch, be increased by 35 per cent., and those of other offices by 20 per cent., it being understood that this rate of increase only takes effect in *full* where the salaries stand as they stood in 1876. Where the office has been created or reconstituted, or its salary raised once or oftener since 1876, the rate should be fixed according to the merits of each case, regard being had to the date of creation or of reconstitution or of increase of emolument, and to the amount and character of the duties." Again, in speaking of the salaries of certain officials, he says:—"I leave it to your discretion, after giving full weight to my criticisms to insert what rates of salary you may see fit for these offices in next year's estimates."

It will be seen that these instructions leave a pretty large discretionary power in the hands of the local Government, and it is the duty of the Finance Committee to see that the Government have properly performed their duty. They can only do so with a full knowledge of facts, and consequently the unofficial members were perfectly justified in calling for a statement of the grievances. The duty of the Committee is to report on the estimates, and to do that well they ought to examine every item and obtain whatever information is necessary to their guidance. That they are more likely to find certain items too small rather than too large does not affect their right to call for explanations. It is no doubt the prerogative of the Government to propose votes of money, or the increase of votes, but the Council, or its Finance Committee, can recommend an increase, and the unofficial members, if their recommendations as to salaries were not accepted, would be quite entitled to oppose the third reading of the Appropriation Bill. The Finance Committee having called for a statement of the claims of certain officers, it would be a most arbitrary step on the part of the Government to refuse the request. That all the complaints and alleged grievances should be made public, does not follow. The best course, perhaps, would be to circulate the necessary documents to the members of Council, so that they might come to next meeting of the Committee fully prepared to make what observations or suggestions they thought proper, or a private meeting might be held for that purpose. To refer the whole question of salaries to a select committee sitting in private has the disadvantage that it would practically stop the public discussion of the Estimates. All the most important matters having been discussed in private, the Finance Committee, on meeting in public, would be disposed to pass the votes *en bloc*. Now, there are many items in the Estimates, not of a personal or private character, about which information ought to be elicited and the discussion of which in public would be of great utility. Whatever course is adopted, we hope the unofficial members will not be persuaded to rush through the estimates on account of the flimsy reasons advanced by the Acting Colonial Secretary and the Acting Governor.

As to the Harbour Department, which was the only case particularised, by Mr. Keewick, the local Government have only carried out the definite instructions of Lord Knutsford, who says he cannot allow higher salaries to the Harbour Master and his assistants, than to the Harbour Commissioners.



officers in Singapore. It is therefore, as regards this particular item, with the Secretary of State that the Committee have really to deal. It is no doubt wise that the Colonial Office should exercise strict supervision over the Colony's expenditure, especially in the matter of salaries to officials, as it is quite not unlikely that, through local influences, certain officers might be unduly favoured and others unduly neglected. But it must not be forgotten that it is the Colony that really pays the money for its servants, and it ought surely to have some say in the matter. After Lord Knutsford's recent profession of consideration for local opinion, we cannot think that he would be influenced by a recommendation made by the unofficial members on the subject of the salaries of public officers. But, while discussing the Harbour estimates, the Finance Committee might well consider the question that was raised last year—Are two superior officers really wanted? If they are not, why not get another post for one of them and pay the other well.

With regard to the extraordinary estimates, the Administrator was doubtless right in objecting to their being discussed, while the question before the Council related only to the ordinary estimates. But Mr. Chatter had some excuse for the course he took. It has been the custom hitherto to consider the extraordinary expenditure in a conversational, perfunctory manner, after discussing the ordinary estimates in committee. These extraordinary estimates were never really talked before the Council. They were only talked over in an off-hand sort of way. If the Acting Governor rules that they are not to be discussed along with the ordinary estimates, when are they to be discussed? Does the Government intend to plunge into the big programme of works without submitting the details to the Council and without obtaining its sanction? It is true the subject of expenditure on public works can always be raised by a motion, and will be raised at next meeting, but that is an unsatisfactory method and does not involve the Council's sanction being given to the works. Many of the extraordinary works already begun, including the water distribution system for which a pretty large sum has already been expended, were never properly submitted to the Council; and, unless the conversational discussion at the conclusion of the ordinary estimates involved approval, they were never really sanctioned by the body which is supposed to hold the strings of the Colony's purse. We are glad to find Mr. Whitehead means to expose the abuses that have grown up, and we wish him all success in his labour.

## TELEGRAMS.

[Supplied to the 'CHINA MAIL']

(Via Southern Line.)

## AFRICA.

London, 27th Oct.

An Italian East Africa Company has been founded with a Capital of 20,000,000 Francs.

(From Singapore Papers.)

## ENGLAND AND PORTUGAL.

London, 19th Oct.—In the Portuguese Chamber the Premier said that Government were unable to recommend the adoption of the African convention, but intimated that they were willing to accept amendments. He also said that unless the recent gunboat incident on the Zambezi was explained satisfactorily the difficulty of a speedy settlement was likely to be aggravated.

## SMOKELSS POWDER.

The official experiments which have been made prove the great superiority of the cordite over smokeless powder.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.

OUTWARD BOUND.—Glenloch, Oct. 3; Braunschweig, Glenloch, Promethee, Sidi, 7; Penbrooke, Antonio, 10; Melbourne, Titian, Medusa, 14.

HOMEWARD BOUND.—Bomby, Dragonair, Sept. 20; Galley of Lorne, Glenloch, Glenloch, Antiochia, Pekin, October 7; Priam, Benarig, Euphrates, 10; Fingsey, 14.

The Canadian Pacific S. S. Co.'s steamer, *Yamouco*, left Yokohama for Hongkong on the 24th-October, and may be expected here on or about the 30th October.

The Norddeutscher Lloyd S. S. Co.'s steamer *Braunschweig*, with the *GEMMA* MAIL of 30th Sept., left Singapore on Sunday, the 28th Oct., at daylight, and may be expected here on or about Friday, the 31st October.

The P. & O. S. S. Co.'s *China*, with the *AMERICAN* MAIL of October 9th, leaves Yokohama on Thursday, the 30th Oct., at daylight, and may be expected here on or about Tuesday, the 4th Nov.

The M. M. Co.'s *Malbourne*, with the French mail of Oct. 3rd, left Singapore on Wednesday, Oct. 29th, at 3 p.m., and may be expected here on or about Wednesday, Nov. 5th. This packet brings replies to letters despatched from Hongkong on Aug. 28.

The Canadian Pacific S. S. Co.'s *Yamouco* left Yokohama for Japan and this port on the 10th Oct.

The Union Line S. S. Co.'s *Guy Monnier*, from Antwerp, left Singapore on Oct. 23rd, and may be expected here on or about Oct. 30th.

The O. S. S. Co.'s *Myrridon*, from Liverpool, left Singapore on the 24th Oct., and may be expected here on or about the 31st Oct.

The S. S. *Wingston*, from Calcutta, left Singapore on the 25th Oct., and may be expected here on or about the 1st Nov.

The Ben Line steamer *Benlomond*, from Glasgow, Antwerp and London, left Singapore on the 27th Oct., and may be expected here on or about the 3rd Nov.

The P. & O. Co.'s steamship *Lombard* left Singapore on the 28th Oct., at 8 a.m., and may be expected here on or about the 4th Nov.

The P. & O. Co.'s steamship *Verona* left Nagsacki for this port on the 21st Oct., at 2.30 p.m.

The P. & O. Co.'s steamship *London* left this port on the 19th Oct.

A Golf Handicap will be played off to-morrow (Thursday) and the following days. Entries close at noon to-morrow.

The Superintendent of the P. & O. S. N. Co. informs us that the Company's s.s. *Hongkong* left Shanghai for this port yesterday (Tuesday) morning.

A SEBAGANT and twenty-five men for the Chinese contingent of the Singapore Police left Hongkong yesterday for Singapore by the s.s. *Arratoon*.

Messrs. Adamson, Bell & Co. inform us that the s.s. *SMA* left Singapore this afternoon (29th), and is due about the 5th November.

Miss Johnstone begs to thank the ladies who so kindly assisted at the 'Sale of Work' for the Baxter Mission Schools. The amount taken was \$1165.19.

The Melbourne, with the French Mail of 3rd October, left Singapore on Wednesday, 29th instant at 3 p.m., and may be expected here on or about Wednesday, the 5th November.

The Agent of the Pacific Mail S. S. Co. informs us that the s.s. *China*, with mails, &c., from San Francisco to the 9th inst., via Honolulu, has arrived at Yokohama, and will leave for this port to-morrow.

It was announced at a meeting of the British Mercantile Marine Officers' Association, held at the Marine Hotel last night, that the local Society was now affiliated with the Shipmasters' and Officers' Federation of Great Britain (which numbers over 10,000 strong) through its connection with the Liverpool Association, which had brought to a successful conclusion negotiations for the federation of all kindred Associations in the United Kingdom.

The second performance of 'Madame Favart' at the Theatre Royal last night, owing to the sudden indisposition of Miss Gracie Plaisant, a repetition of 'La Sonnambula' is billed for to-morrow evening. Mr. O.H. Green will again take the role of Count Rudolph, and the assistance of a number of local amateurs will be given in the choruses.

At the Police Court to-day, before Mr. Wodehouse, four Chinese pig dealers were charged, at the instance of Police Sergeant Ford, with cruelly abusing a number of pigs. Sergeant Ford said he found the defendants weighing pigs in a way which caused the animals great deal of unnecessary pain. They tied the legs of the pigs together tightly with iron and suspended them by the legs on iron hooks. On examination it was found that the twine had cut into the flesh, thus causing the animals intense pain. There was no excuse for this kind of torture, as the pigs could easily be weighed by means of a scale, that being the proper method. The Magistrate fined each of the defendants \$10.

The Colonial Office has again followed the good principle of appointing to a post an officer who has had experience of the duties. Mr. A. K. Travers, who has for nearly three years acted as Postmaster General, has been appointed to the substantive post. During the long period he was at the head of the Post Office, Mr. Travers showed himself ever anxious to expedite the business so as to meet the wishes of the public. Most people are very sensitive with regard to the speedy delivery of their letters, and the fact that there have been few, if any, complaints during the last three years is good testimony in his favour. He has also introduced considerable reforms, and we hope he will do more yet to facilitate the delivery of mails. The duties of the Stamp Office have, we believe, been separated from those of the Postmaster General, and it is stated that Mr. Mitchell Jones has been appointed Collector of Stamp Revenue.

An illustrated newspaper in Malay is now published at Amsterdam, under the name of *Surabaya Kurier*. It comes out weekly and costs two and a half guilders a quarter.

The Surabaya Kurier says that the Government there have taken measures to prevent Chinese and Arabs from travelling about in the interior of Java, unless they can show permits of residence. Those caught travelling without the latter will be deported from the island.

A JAVA paper points out that the application for land concessions in Sambar is mostly for speculative purposes. The Sultan's claims run from the concessional area, and the land reverts to him on their failure to pay. In that case, the land will become again available for selection.

The old mud stations on the Toonghuan railway are now replaced by commodious buildings of brick, affording ample accommodation for ticket offices, passengers' waiting rooms, &c. At Tienlin there is no change, perhaps because the location of the permanent station has not yet been decided.—*Chinese Times*.

Ox the West Coast of Sumatra, the Government coffee cultivation is falling off in yield owing to the people stripping off young leaves from the trees for drinking purposes, as they prefer coffee made from the leaf to that from the bean. This plucking process leads to many trees dying early before bearing fruit.

The Bangkok Times says:—We must congratulate the War Department on the trim appearance, and general smartness and efficiency of the troops as they turned out on Wednesday afternoon. Half a battalion, under the command of that persevering officer Capt. Schan, marched through the city and round by the residence of the Minister of the Army and Navy, headed by the Infantry band, playing the lively march 'Marching into Georgia.'

A Singapore Chinese paper in a leading article points out that the Nihilists in Russia, through working against their own Government have done and are still doing great service to the five continents. The universal peace that reigns everywhere at the present time is entirely due to the work of the Nihilists. It is well known that the Emperor of Russia is very anxious to declare war and had it not been for the fact that he is afraid to leave his place for fear of being assassinated by the Nihilists he would certainly carry out his intentions and break the peace.

The Japanese press is periodically the victim of a panic about Korea. A majority of the papers in the capital have just published a mysterious statement that the peninsula Kingdom has now decided to throw itself into the arms of Russia, while a few other journals state that China has resolved to tighten her hold on the same country by formally declaring it her dependency. This, we take it, is merely a repetition of the usual scare. When genuine news falls, invent something about Korea, seems to be the motto of many journalists in the East. Should these perpetual alarms ever have any reality we shall all be thoroughly deceived, for it has come to be the custom to regard all sensational intelligence as a hoax, and the Kingdom as a pure invention.—*Japan Mail*.

The Packet Navigation Company is doing its utmost to secure the tobacco shipments from Doli to Europe, and has so far got hold of two thousand bales of next year's crop, hardly a twentieth part of the expected yield. It aims at turning the tobacco trade route to Europe in the Batavia direction, not an easy task with Holt's steamers going to Europe, and the fact that the Holt's tobacco planters fear that their produce once there will have to wait for transhipment whenever Java products command higher freights. The Packet Company may unchain a storm against it on carrying out the tobacco shipment scheme. Holt's line might in that event begin a life and death struggle with the Blue funnel boats here taking cotton goods from Britain and ousting the rival Dutch steamers which used to load with them at Southampton, would seriously cut into the Packet Company's profits. Holt's vessels can also run the Packet steamer hard in bidding for sugar cargoes in Java where the trade in this sugar has mostly fallen into the hands of a few big houses, and the British trade. Lively times may follow a declaration of war between the two Companies.

The barkentine *Catherine Sudden*, says the San Francisco Chronicle of the 6th inst., which left this port on April 5th last bound for Siberia, has arrived at Port Townsend. Her commander, Captain John Thomas, sent to this city yesterday an interesting account of his voyage, which was a long and arduous one. He also sent a description of the Russian coast, as witnessed in operation by himself. Captain Thomas' destination was Nicolaevsk. His progress was barred when the Amoor river was reached, as it was frozen over and blocked with ice. He states that not one pleasant day was enjoyed after leaving San Francisco. The weather was stormy and fog prevailed constantly. The natives in the region his ship visited are nearly black. They are a mixture of the Russian and Mongolian races, and are ignorant, immoral and treacherous. At one time Captain Thomas was on Kaghan Island, a famous Russian prison for exiles. He described a heartrending and brutal scene which he witnessed there. A large party of exiles of all ages and sexes were being taken to the island. They were all heavily manacled. A few old men whose strength was unequal to the pillage march of many miles over rough country fell on their knees and begged for mercy. The brutal guards acting under orders from a superior, promptly shot the unfortunate men and removed the chains from them. They were left to die in the barren waste and to be eaten by ravenous wolves. Captain Thomas says that no mercy or discrimination was shown. Wives saw their husbands killed before their eyes, mothers saw their children torn to pieces, and the exiles were driven like cattle, a heavy whip being used to hasten them on. The prison cells were filthy and the treatment barbarous.

A NEW FORM OF GAMBLING.—Yesterday afternoon, says the Singapore Free Press of the 17th October, before Mr. Thornton, Inspector Porteous brought up a test case, to obtain his Worship's ruling on a new form of gambling. Two Chinamen and two Kongs, tenants of four houses in Doggie Street, were charged with keeping their premises as common gaming houses. They had displayed on their walls photographs and pictures for sale, each bore a number, corresponding with a number in a sort of lottery going on inside the house. Another railway was the oil ring and stick game; rings were thrown at a number of sticks, or knives stuck upright, and all numbered to correspond with the prizes kept in the back. The evidence was not questioned, but Mr. Logan for the Defence claimed that this was not gambling within the meaning of the Ordinance. The Magistrate decided that it was only a test case, he imposed a nominal fine of \$3 and costs on one prisoner, and dismissed the others, cautioning them all to close their premises within a week. In connection with the former plan adopted to hang the wall photographs, each with a number on the back corresponding to a number on certain articles, for sale, the photographs can be put out, and the corresponding prize is awarded. It may be worth two cents or two dollars. A test case of a certain Inspector of Police going down to make a test case. He paid his own and as a prize to a mirror worth a couple of dollars. Being a good-looking man he kept the book and glass and dropped the case. Query, was the prize the result of his good looks, or because he was an Inspector, or because the owner of the lottery was a wife man?

The N. I. Government has granted an application by J. W. Knaggs of London to carry on mining exploration in the districts of Lunan, Bantayan, Sendang, and Sambang in the Western Division of Borneo. The Government has also sanctioned his making over the concession to the Sambar Gold Mining Company.

We learn from Koh-i-Chang, says the Bangkok Times that on Thursday last the port was enlivened by the presence of eleven sailing vessels and seven steamers busy loading and discharging. From the bustle and business going forward counted on so large a number of vessels, the port were quite an important aspect, and proved the correctness of our anxiety that the increasing growth of shipping business there demands closer attention by Government.

The balance-sheet and accounts of the China Inland Mission for 1889 have recently been published. They indicate the importance of the operations in which the Mission is engaged, besides affording the most direct evidence of the extent and reality of the good work it is carrying on in the great Chinese Empire. We are glad to note that, despite the heavy calls which were made upon the funds during 1889, the accounts indicate a satisfactory result. The total of the receipts for the year, including a total of over £8,000. This sum includes the Building Fund, which is put down as £4,025, the Superintendent's Missionaries' account £4,000, and £23 for Outfits and Passages account, thus leaving the comparatively small sum of £54 17s. 7d. as the balance of the general fund. The balance of 1888 carried over was £1 9s. 3d., and the receipts acknowledged in 'China's Millions' came to £18,662 10s. 3d., making together £25 61s. 8d. This sum includes various receipts, which amounted to £11,012 10s. 10d., while the disbursements for the year, including contributions from America and from Borneo and interest account, were £2,970s. 1d., less Finance Fund contributions £148 17s. 8d., making together £2,821 2s. 6d., or to all receipts of £21 869 14s. 1d. The expenditure on Home accounts amounted to £30,000 3s. 1d., which includes a sum of £3,000 3s. 1d. for payment of missionaries, &c., and on China accounts to £2,821 2s. 6d., making together a total expenditure of £34,821 5s. 6d.

NEARLY every week fresh instances arise of the inconvenience caused to passengers across the Continent to Brindisi on their way to the East. The latest complaint comes from Mr. H. P. Dimmock, who writes to *The Times* from the P. & O. steamer *Attoch*. He has had the misfortune to lose his baggage, owing to the defective arrangements on the Continental lines. He adds: 'Surely the South-Eastern Railway and other influential companies interested in the traffic across the Continent could effect a radical improvement in such an inconvenient and unsafe system of transit, and surely if a passenger registers his baggage right through to Brindisi there should be no necessity for delay by customs or any one else, and if it were sealed and sent straight on there would be no necessity for the officers to interfere, on the part of Customs officers, the P. & O. agents at Brindisi were most polite, and gave me every assistance. They said that such things occurred every week, and surely they could raise their powerful efforts to effect some improvement on such a deplorable state of affairs. Anyhow, the loss of baggage on the present lines offers no security against, but very likely offers a great facility to loss of property thus despatched.—*London and China Express*.

The Batavia *Nieuwsblad's* correspondent under date 1st October reports the safe arrival of the troops in port there, and that they were then still in camp awaiting search for a steep and the mountain rise from the water's edge. The people, so far, seem friendly but their country has a poor look, and they live mainly on maize and fish. They are at enmity with the mountaineers, so that the troops have nothing to fear from them. In South Celebes, the force in the field, on the defensive, awaiting the progress of events on the North Coast. Acheen advances report that the blockade has taken such effect on the North Coast that several chiefs, feeling its pinch there have applied to the Netherlands Authorities for the reopening of import and export trade, but they have, in met with a steady refusal. They have, in fact, been forbidden to export pepper to Deli and Langkat, where the article finds ready sale in barter for opium and rice. A man-of-war has been sent to the neighbourhood to check this contraband trade. In Acheen Proper, the Acheenes keep up their harassing tactics the more briskly, from their priestly leader, Kung, who has sent a circular to his chiefs directing them to hold no communication whatever with the outsiders.

Ma W. H. White, Chief Constructor to the Navy, writes to *The Times*, which has stated 'The loss of the *Wasp*, in 1887, in the China Seas, was due to a lack of foresight to draw attention to the fact that the loss of the *Wasp* was dealt with in the 'Statement Explanatory of Navy Estimates, 1888-1889.' The naval members of the Board recorded their opinion in the subjoined memorandum:—'Having met fully examined the design and the construction of the *Wasp* as a sailing vessel, we are most distinctly of opinion that the utmost care was taken to provide in every respect for the safety of the *Wasp* against all contingencies which could be humanly foreseen with regard to her seaworthiness, and that she was in all respects far superior to any gunboat which has been built for the naval service.' In the same Statement the First Lord of the Admiralty dealt with the policy of the Board in regard to the smaller vessels of the Navy, and explained the action taken in ordering nine gunboats, which were in many respects similar to the *Wasp*, Lord George Blandford remarked: 'The Board's decision on this matter was arrived at, full view of the circumstances attending the loss of the *Wasp*, as far as those circumstances can ever be known. Having carefully considered all the particulars of her design in comparison with the corresponding particulars for preceding classes of gunboats whose performance during a period of thirty years has been found most satisfactory, the Board reached the conclusion that the *Wasp* was in all respects a seaworthy vessel, and safely far superior to the gunboats which preceded her.' It may be added that the three sister gunboats of the *Wasp*, built from the same design, have been highly reported on as the result of actual service; and that equally satisfactory reports have been received from the gunboats subsequently built.

A TELEGRAM from New York, with reference to the working of the new Silver Laws, says that considerable sensation has been caused by the discovery that houses offering the Government silver under the new law are frequently undervalued by the hundredth part of a cent. It is supposed that in the office of the Director of the Mint, who fixes daily the prices, there is some one who sells the information in advance. Indeed, a prominent banker, who, for obvious reasons, withheld his name, informed a *Daily* reporter that a man having access to him at his office, and said: 'I have facilities for obtaining information direct from the Mint. No one else can let you know daily the lowest bids, and the price the Government will pay. There is a million in this.' Despite this glowing statement the banker refused to avail himself of his offer. The Government purchases, however, show that someone less scrupulous gave the visitor a different answer.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Straits Times* writes from Ulu Pahang on the 6th October:—Kuala Lipis has not been a very lively spot for the past month. The shallowness of the river owing to drought has made communication between Pekan and this district utterly impossible, and the only two steam launches *Shayan* and *Ethel* are quite unavailing. This fact has increased the isolation of the place, and placed the residents here in an unpleasant position. The want of government specie in the treasury has been much discussed. The government officials have not been paid up till date, and this will no doubt tend to cause a certain amount of distrust amongst the people. It is said that the money obtained from Raub has so taken up the minds of the Pekan collector that they have forgotten the people paid and hard worked officials of Ulu Pahang. It does not take much time to send a few thousand dollars from P. Raub to Lipis. A rice famine is predicted, and it is said that the date is not far distant. I recollect a similar scarcity in January last, during a small-pox scare, and were it not for the kindness of Mr. Hardie, the manager of the Panjom mines, the native population would have been at their wits' end to maintain themselves.

Ulu Pahang has a daily increasing Chinese population, writes the *Straits Times* correspondent, which in one sense is a benefit as to labour, but I am sure that the Chinese cause a great anxiety to Mr. Sumner, the Head of our Police Force here. A case of house-breaking took place in the Panjom mines. I hear that a number of Chinese entered the Panjom office and removed 14 bales of opium valued at \$890. The police were soon on the spot, and by careful searching, the entrance to the store was found. The Chinese were arrested, but one turned Queen's evidence, and related in a very amusing style how the robbery was committed. 'He got two years all the same. The other men, with the remainder of the opium, got away, post-haste, by a cart, and the Chinese were left to go into Kelantan. Pahang has felt the necessity of having a Police station commanding the entrance to Kelantan, and the want of such a station has been made very apparent in many cases, especially one of a case of murder in the Selatung mountain, where the murderer got away through Kelantan.'

The Kinkiang correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*, writes:—For some time there has been a great deal of talk about a very heavy rain, but day has succeeded day, and the only answer to the cry was a cloudless sky. High winds have blown and the sky become overcast, the mountains being entirely concealed in the clouds; surely the rain will come now, and on the third day the forecast of things is renewed. The officials issued proclamations to the effect that no animal was to be slaughtered, no fish caught and no eggs eaten, that heaven might be propitiated. Suddenly all these articles of daily food disappeared from the streets and markets. However much the officials believed in their faith in the people, all over the country pigs, chickens and ducks were killed as usual and secretly carried into the streets for sale. As one walked along the street one might sometimes see an excited crowd gathered together scrambling pull-over one another and eagerly buying up the goods. 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